



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

Honoring Our Promise to Our Nation's Heroes

May 2008

Largest Increase in Veterans' Funding Becomes A Reality

Earlier this year, the \$3.7 billion in additional veterans funding originally provided by Congress was released. The largest single funding increase in the 77-year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs, these funds provide an extra \$6.7 billion over the 2007 budget. The additional funding will strengthen quality health care for 5.8 million patients, invest in much-needed maintenance for the VA health care facilities and treatment of returning veterans, reduce the backlog of veterans claims by hiring 1,800 additional claims processors, and increase veterans' health care and benefits by \$5.2 billion for improved care and shorter waiting lines.



Ensuring that our veterans receive quality care and services is one of my top priorities. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. With this national investment, we will begin to fulfill our pledge of leaving no veteran behind.

Resources for Veterans

Confidential Suicide Prevention Hotline
(800) 273-TALK

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
(800) 829-4833

Education (GI Bill)
(888) 442-4551

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(800) 827-1000
www.va.gov

Health Care Benefits
(877) 222-8387

Center for Minority Veterans
(202) 461-6191
www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans

HUD Veterans Resource Center
(800) 998-9999

Center for Women Veterans
www1.va.gov/womenvet/

Income Verification and Means Testing
(800) 929-8387

Life Insurance
(800) 669-8477

Mammography Helpline
(888) 492-7844

VA Medical Center
4646 John R
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 576-1000
(800) 511-8056
24-Hour Phone Care
(888) 838-6446
www.detroit.va.gov

Special Issues
(800) 749-8387

Status of Headstones and Markers
(800) 697-6947



H.R. 3620/The Homecoming Enhancement Research and Oversight (HERO) Act

I introduced the Homecoming Enhancement Research and Oversight (HERO) Act to ensure that the health needs of our nation's heroes are met. This bill requires the National Academy of Sciences to study the physical and mental readjustment needs for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and to report those findings and its recommendations for action to Congress. It would also make those findings and recommendations available to the public.



Congresswoman Kilpatrick discussed the war in Iraq during a welcome home ceremony for members of the 182nd Security Force. The unit never lost a soldier and was awarded 26 Bronze Star Medals, 49 Combat Action Badges, and two Purple Hearts.

A Voice for Veterans

Congresswoman Kilpatrick has supported a number of bills aimed at providing military families and veterans with the services and support they need.

- **H.R. 3997, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act**, makes essential tax relief for our military families permanent and provides more low-income loans for veterans.
- **H.R. 3625, the HEROS Act**, makes permanent the Secretary of Education's Authority to provide U.S. troops called to active duty with higher education relief, including providing them with more leeway on repaying their student loans.
- **H.R. 4253, the Reservist and Veterans' Small Business Opportunity Act**, expands small business opportunities for veterans and helps military reservists keep their business afloat during and after deployment.
- **H.R. 1284, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act**, increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the dependency and indemnity benefits for families of disabled veterans.
- **H.R. 3793, the Veterans' Guaranteed Bonus Act**, provides essential financial security to our wounded servicemen and women by guaranteeing full payment of bonuses earned and owed to them.
- **H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warriors Act**, focuses on improving the care of injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.



Congresswoman Kilpatrick visited the Detroit VA Medical Center to thank veterans for their courage, service, and sacrifice. She also met with staff to discuss improvements at the center.

“Ensuring that our veterans receive quality care and services is one of my top priorities.”

— Congresswoman Kilpatrick

For assistance with veterans' issues, contact my office:

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